

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CA-01 HEW-04 IO-13 MCT-01
OES-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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-----015028 301854Z /46

P 301845Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2330
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12110

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, UR
SUBJECT: REPORT OF DETENTION OF BAPTISTS AT KRASNODAR

REFS: (A) STATE 134187, (B) MOSCOW 11004, (C) MOSCOW
10539

1. RE PARA 1, REFTEL (A): NATALYA MARCHENKO, A REPRESENTATIVE OF BAPTIST GROUP CALLED ON CONSOFF AT EMBASSY MAY 26 CONCERNING MEETINGS WHICH TOOK PLACE MAY 8 - 10 AT ROSTOV-NA-DONU AND KRASNODAR. ACCORDING TO MS. MARCHENKO, OVER 1000 MEMBERS OF UNREGISTERED BAPTIST CHURCHES MET TO DISCUSS STATUS OF CHURCH, EMIGRATION, AND WAYS OF MAINTAINING CONTACT BETWEEN CONGREGATIONS.

2. MARCHENKO STATED THAT THE AUTHORITIES CONTINUE TO DESTROY CHURCHES AND CONSCRIPT YOUNG BAPTISTS INTO THE ARMY. MARCHENKO LEFT SEVERAL HUNDRED PAGES OF PAPERS WITH CONSOFF. CONSOFF MADE NO COMMITMENT, NOTING ONLY THAT THE EMBASSY WILL PASS ALL
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REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING VYZOV'S TO THE TOLSTOY FOUNDATION. MARCHENKO THEN REQUESTED THAT THE MATERIAL BE READ AND EVALUATED.

3. EMBASSY IS UNABLE TO COMMENT ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ARRESTS IN KRASNODAR HAD ANY BEARING ON CANCELLATION OF HEW ADVANCE PARTY VISIT TO

SOCHI AND SUKHUMI. MS. MARCHENKO SAID "SEVERAL"
ORGANIZERS WERE ARRESTED, BUT DID NOT COMMENT
FURTHER. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

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